

## **Othello – Vocabulary**

### **Section 1 – Acts I-II**

**obsequious** (adj) – excessively eager to please or obey all instructions

**deft** (adj) – skillful, adroit; moving or acting in quick, smooth way

**meritorious** (adj) – deserving honor and recognition

**scurrilous** (adj) – using or expressed in vulgar and abusive language; foul-mouthed

**elucidate** (verb) – to explain or clarify something

**enmity** (noun) – the extreme ill will or hatred existing between enemies

**machination** (noun) – the devising of secret, cunning, or complicated plans and schemes

**pestilence** (noun) – a serious infectious disease; a malevolent belief, influence, or presence

**beguile** (verb) – to deceive or trick; to amuse or delight

**supplant** (verb) – to take somebody's place or position by force or intrigue

**foist** (verb) – to introduce surreptitiously; to force to accept by deceit; to pass off as genuine

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### **Section 2 – Acts III-V**

**cajole** (verb) – to coax gently and persistently; wheedle

**ocular** (adj) – relating to, perceived by, or performed by the eye; an eyepiece

**malleable** (adj) – easily persuaded or influenced by others

**capitulation** (noun) – surrender or a giving up of resistance

**nefarious** (adj) – famous for bad actions; utterly immoral or wicked

**vitriolic** (adj) – bitterly severe; harsh; sharp

**crux** (noun) – the basic essential feature of something; a baffling or puzzling point difficult to explain

**visage** (noun) – somebody's face or facial expression

**fruition** (noun) – a point in which something has come to maturity or had desired outcome

**perdition** (noun) – state of everlasting punishment in Hell; complete destruction or ruin

**pernicious** (adj) – causing great harm, destruction, or death; wicked